



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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To: Special Education Director

Date: January 30, 2009

Subject: AIMS A **Update** – Multiple Choice Reset and No Response Options

When administering Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards Alternate (AIMS A), teachers were informed that they may request the "Multiple Choice Reset" or "No Response" option. The "Multiple Choice Reset" is used to enhance accessibility for those students who are unable to *physically* select an answer choice using the computer keyboard or other device. It permits teachers to enter in a student response to AIMS A multiple choice items based on the student's indicated response choice. The "No Response" option was included in the "Multiple Choice Reset" option last year and could only be accessed by viewing every multiple choice item. Students who required the "No Response" option typically are students in a persistent state; they lack critical cognitive functions, are motionless, they make no meaningful eye contact, and may not react to external stimuli. Per teacher request for the 2009 administration of AIMS A, a one-time "No Response" option was implemented for students who met these criteria. When requesting the "No Response" option, Special Education Directors *must* submit the "No Response" form providing detailed information about the student.

Districts have begun to submit their requests for the "No Response" option. After reviewing the requests, it has been determined that a disproportionate percentage of students are being requested for this option. Based on this, it would appear that students are being exempted from a portion of the state assessment. Therefore, at this time the one-time "No Response" option will not be offered until further training can be provided. The multiple choice items on AIMS A must be presented to *all* students giving them an opportunity to respond. If students are unable to respond, then the teachers may indicate that the student did not respond with the Multiple Choice Reset option.

If you have any questions contact **Dr. Leila Williams** at (602) 364-2811.